

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, delete the second full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

In a camera wherein a barrier for a lens protection is mounted at a cabinet side, ~~in case of a little space for saving the barrier, hitherto~~, there is adopted a measure for saving [[a]] space in which a two-bladed structure of barrier is provided so that the barrier is stored on a superposition basis or is saved separately at the right and left. However, according to the prior art, there is provided such an arrangement that the barrier is moved in a horizontal direction. This structure needs a large number of parts such as racks, pinions, levers and the like. Accordingly, it takes a large cost and needs a corresponding space for storing those parts.

Page 1, delete the third full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

For example, there is known a technology (Japanese Utility Model Registration No. 2593878) which relates to a plurality of movable barrier units opening and closing in a direction perpendicular to an optical axis with respect to a lens aperture of a lens barrel cover top portion, wherein there are provided a travelling direction rack, a gear engaging with the rack, a driving rack, and an operational member. This technology is suitable for a small and light type of camera, since it simply needs a small mounting space and a little ~~parts~~ number of parts. However, according to this technology, the rack moves to a projecting position at the time of the opening of the lens aperture, and thus this technology is not sufficiently suitable for compactness. Further, this technology needs a large number of parts such as a plurality of racks, pinions and gears.

Page 2, delete the first full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

Further, there is known a barrier unit comprising two-divided barriers, a connecting lever for connecting those barriers with one another, a holding section for holding the barriers at an opening position or a closing position, and a receiving plate forming a travelling space, wherein a geometry of the two-divided barriers and the receiving plate is a part of a spherical shell having the same spherical center (cf. for example, Japanese Patent Application Laid Open Gazette Toku-Kai Hei. 5 – 216092 (paragraph 0007)). This barrier unit is simple in structure and is not does not have many in parts number, and is compact. Further, this barrier unit is effective to prevent erroneous stop of the barrier and also to stably hold the barrier at the opened position. Thus this barrier unit satisfies has a high operability, durability and [[a]] functional ability. According to this barrier unit, the barrier moves horizontally, and is a manual operating unit. And thus this barrier unit needs parts such as a link and a return spring, and thereby needing a large space in a horizontal direction.

Page 4, delete the second full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

In the lens protector according to the present invention as mentioned above, it is preferable that the two barrier blades consist of a half moon shaped barrier blade that covers a part of the lens aperture and [[a]] another barrier blade of a wane portion.

Page 5, delete the fourth full paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a camera 1 showing a lens protector according to an embodiment of the present invention, looking only at a cabinet 2 of the front side of the camera 1 from the rear side. Fig. 1 shows a state before a lens protection barrier 10 and a driving device 31 are mounted on the cabinet 2. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the lens protector according to the embodiment of the present invention, in which the barrier 10 is assembled on the cabinet 2. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the camera 1 in a state that the barrier 10 is closed. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the camera 1 in a state that the barrier 10 is opened.